



## Trustee's Message

A happy summer season to all from Mayor Hinshaw and the Village Board! It has been great to see all the children out riding their bikes, playing in the park and enjoying the beautiful weather. As a new resident said to me recently, during the summer in IHP, it feels like living in a forest with all of the trees and greenery surrounding us.

The Village is sponsoring a free Movie Night on August 7<sup>th</sup> (rain date August 8<sup>th</sup>) in Blackhawk Park. Grab a lawn chair or blanket and your picnic basket and head over to enjoy the show! Movies will start at 8:00 pm. For more info on the movies to be shown and other entertainment that may be provided, please check the Village Website later in July. Thanks to Trustees Wittenberg and O'Laughlin for putting this event together.

We welcome our new Police Chief, Robert Cervenka, as well as new Village employees Linda Merrifield, Water Billing/Administrative Assistant, and Argelia Garbacz, Finance Manager.

A reminder that Village vehicle stickers were to be purchased and displayed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have not already done so, please come to the Village Hall to purchase the stickers. The Village has purchased and implemented a new computer program to handle the purchase of stickers. So far this year the Village has sold 2,041 vehicle stickers and 42 motorcycle tags. Don't risk a ticket!

New water meter installation has begun and has gone smoothly. Personally, the installation of the meter in my home took about 20 minutes and was hassle free. Please be sure to respond to Calumet Plumbing if they have contacted you so that an appointment can be made for the meter installation in your home. This must be done on a village-wide basis so we need your assistance.

As always, the Village is looking for volunteers to help improve our community. The most immediate need is for members of the Fire & Police Commission, and the Planning & Zoning Commission. Other committees that can use a helping hand are Finance, Communications, and Social/Event Planning. If you have the time and inclination please contact either myself or Mayor Hinshaw. Your input matters and it is vital to the continued prosperity of Indian Head Park!

Enjoy the remainder of your summer- it always goes too fast!

**Rita Farrell Mayer, Trustee**

## **Public Works Department Activities and Associated Initiatives**

### **Infrastructure**

We have all heard more and more frequently about the importance of our physical infrastructure and how it affects both the well-being of our citizens and the economic well-being of our country. These issues impact all of us down to the smallest city or town: deteriorating roads, water main breaks, collapsed sewers, and more. Your new Village Board has realized that previous practices in this village could no longer be tolerated, and calling for crash emergency renovations (and the exorbitant associated costs of legal fees and interest payments over decades in time) as done in the past could not be permitted to continue.

Over the next several years the new Village Board will be finalizing and implementing the Department of Public Works Indian Head Park Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IHPIAM Plan) for the various capital categories that are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. The purpose of IHPIAM Plan is to define what the current stage is in the life cycle of each of the primary asset categories, namely the 1) potable water supply system; 2) sanitary sewer system; 3) storm water system; 4) village streets and parking lots; 5) park facilities; 6) buildings: consisting of the Public Works facility, Heritage Center, Village Hall and the Pump House to the rear of Village Hall. As the physical state of each system is evaluated, and functional life is more closely defined, the IHPIAM Plan results will be used to determine what repair/life-extension or replacement would be most appropriate, so that we can determine how the necessary work could be financed and when it should be performed.

Among the first stages in the IHPIAM Plan is the replacement of the water meters within Village jurisdiction, to more accurately monitor water usage and to detect possible water leaks within individual users homes or businesses to try and help them save money. In addition, the new water meter system will significantly decrease the man hours needed both to read the meters and to do the water billing.

The water meter replacement program is currently in progress. Cooperation of all residents is critical to achieving the completion of this program at the lowest cost possible. Please make sure you respond to scheduling attempts in order that your meter can be replaced with as little inconvenience to you as possible.

The recent increase in water charges was required to meet the projected needs for the water meter program and major water main replacements needed in various areas of the Village, most immediately on Blackhawk Trail and Shabbona Road, where multiple water main breaks have occurred over the past several years with increasing frequency. These breaks typically cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each to repair (with actual costs ranging from as little as \$3,000 to as much as \$17,000,) with about \$50,000 on average being wasted each year up to now on water mains that ever more urgently need replacement rather than continued unending repairs. In addition, your new Village Board is bringing back into usable condition the previously neglected emergency water supply system represented by our deep water well at the Water System Pump House. The Pump House also requires some renovation as well, including a new roof and upgraded generator system to assure an uninterrupted water supply to village residents and businesses should the regular water supply be interrupted for any reason.

We are working on the most critical life-safety related infrastructure projects initially, and as the various other systems are properly evaluated by our Village Engineer, additional work, particularly on our street system, is planned yet this year. All of this work is being done as transparently as possible, and all of the information, as it becomes available, will be placed on the Village website so all of our residents can see what is being done.

### **Code/Ordinance Reviews**

In addition to the work being done for the Village infrastructure, a comprehensive review is being made of Village ordinances and codes that is also long overdue. These reviews will be covering everything from garbage containers to burning ordinances, from fines to enforcement. As these reviews are accomplished, suggested changes will be presented to your Village Board for further refinement, and if the full Village Board decides to proceed with the code review initiative, open discussions would be expected in public meetings so that our residents could directly participate in process before final enactment would occur.

All of this work is necessary to maintain the quality of life in Indian Head Park, to maintain property values and to address life-safety issues that can affect all of our residents, regardless of whether you rent an apartment, own a town home or condominium, or whether you are a business owner or a single-family home owner. We hope that we will have the support of all of the residents that want to maintain our village as a vital, safe and stable community, as does your Village Board.

**Glenn Mann, Trustee**

## What to do with Fall leaves

Would you believe that not raking your Fall leaves is actually good for your lawn? Turfgrass specialists from the University of Michigan have spent more than two decades looking into the beneficial aspects of mulching leaves by mowing them in place. Simply raise your mower blade to the highest setting and mow away making at least two passes over the leaves. Small leaf particles will be left that slowly filter down into the lawn providing nourishment as they break down over Winter. Besides eliminating the back breaking and expensive need for raking and bagging, researchers discovered this mulching method resulted in almost a 100% reduction in dandelions and crabgrass over a three year period. The tiny leaf particles covered bare spots preventing weed seeds from germinating. In the Spring you'll find your lawn greening up sooner and needing less fertilizer. Give it a try and see for yourself. Further information can be seen at the following websites:

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/smart\\_gardeners\\_mulch\\_fallen\\_leaves\\_into\\_lawn\\_to\\_save\\_money](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/smart_gardeners_mulch_fallen_leaves_into_lawn_to_save_money)

<http://en-ca.scotts.com/smg/goART3/Howto/dont-rake-those-leaves-mulch-them-into-your-lawn---scotts-canada/42300054>

Chris Metz, Trustee

### GFWC Indian Head Park Woman's Club

HEAR YE!----all who may be interested in a charitable organization whose goals are social, educational and service. We are anxious to meet you. In recent years, the GFWC Indian Head Park Woman's Club has held fundraisers and contributed to groups such as Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Constance Morris House, Hines Hospital, BEDS, Illinois Coalition on Domestic Violence, and Giant Steps. In addition, the club presents at least one scholarship to an LTHS graduate who is an Indian Head Park resident. This year's recipient was Paige McMahon---congratulations, Paige.

Our woman's club, organized in 1986, is a member of the GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and the international General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). With few exceptions, we meet in the Indian Head Park Municipal Facility on the third Tuesday of the month from September through May at 6:45 p.m. We begin with "coffee and" for a half hour, followed by business and a program that may be entertaining and/or informative.

We will begin the 2016-2017 club year with a potluck to be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. We are hoping to increase our membership and welcome new ideas---residence in Indian Head Park is not a prerequisite. If you plan to attend or have any questions, please contact Irene Macke, President, at [708-246-5809](tel:708-246-5809).

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## Meet Robert Cervenka, our new Police Chief

I'm very happy and excited to return to Indian Head Park, where I started my law enforcement career in 1981. After two years on patrol duties I became a Shift Commander (comparable to a Sergeant) supervising up to five officers. In 1985 I left to join the Chicago Police Department as a patrolman. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1984, and in 1988 was assigned to the Narcotic and Gang Investigations Section. In 2001 I was promoted to Lieutenant, serving as a field lieutenant and Watch Commander. In 2003 I was assigned to the Bureau of Organized Crime as a Commanding Officer in the Narcotics Division. I retired from the force in December, 2011.

Born and raised on Chicago's southwest side I come from a large police family. My father and older brother were Chicago police officers, and my son and nephew are currently active police officers. Personally, I've been married for 37 years and have two sons and two grandsons. I have a Master's Degree in Criminal/Social Justice from Lewis University and am a graduate of the FBI National Academy's executive management training course.

I once again am looking forward to the challenges and rewards of working for the Village of Indian Head Park and its police department. My goal is to continue fostering a positive relationship between the residents and the department and to ensure that we provide professional and courteous service the community.

## SEASPAR Concert September 9th

In continuing the celebration of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary SEASPAR will be hosting a concert in Blackhawk Park on September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Local performer Bert Cattoni and John Ivan will be performing a wide variety of popular music to keep the "Indian Summer" spirit alive. SEASPAR is also working with Briar Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to provide transportation for residents to the event. SEASPAR will provide free food to help complete the feeling of a perfect "Indian Summer" evening.



### Rachel Thompson

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## Mark your calendar for Indian Head Park's Movie Night!

DATE: Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> (rain date August 8<sup>th</sup>)

PLACE: Blackhawk Park

TIME: 8:00 pm

FILM: Plans are for 2 movies, one kids, one adult.  
Complete information will be posted on IHP website as soon as available.

### *Selling or Buying a Home?*

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### Meter Replacement Program Update

We are in the midst of the long awaited meter replacement program and if you are on Village water you should have received notice (or several notices) from M.E. Simpson attempting to set up an appointment to have the Village's contractor, Calumet City Plumbing, come out and replace your meter. If you have not yet been contacted, please call Linda Merrifield at the Village Hall (708-2046-3080) immediately.

A couple of things to remember: first, every meter installer must be wearing a Village provided ID with our logo on it. If they do not have a badge, they are not allowed to install your meter. If you ever have a concern as to your safety during this process, please immediately call 9-1-1. Second, the installer will leave an evaluation form with you. Please fill it out and return it to the Village as soon as you can. We wish to measure not only the performance of the installer, but we wish to measure your satisfaction with the entire process.

### The Budget

The Village's fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30. We ended the fiscal year ending April 30<sup>th</sup> on a positive note. On the revenue side, revenues exceeded budgeted expectations by \$275,000 and expenses were less than budgeted by \$210,000. This is on a budget totaling just over four million dollars. The budget for the new fiscal year can be found online at <http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov/Budget%20Binder.pdf>.

John DuRocher, Administrator

# Is This Your Kitty?

**White/Gray Longhair Non-neutered Declawed(?) Male - Friendly, but Skittish**



**Since mid-May he's been hanging out near Shabbona Rd. and lately has been coming by for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a midnight snack.**

**Email: [StrayKitty@Brazda.com](mailto:StrayKitty@Brazda.com) or Call Brian (708)246-9000**

### Secretary of State Senior Mobile Event

will be held on Tuesday, September 13, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Wilshire Green Clubhouse, 115 Acacia Drive.

The following services will be available:

- Renewal /correction of driver's license
- License plate stickers

- New/renewal/correction of state I.D. (no charge for seniors 65 and up)
- Motor voter/organ donor registration with renewal of D.L./I.D.
- Seniors age 75 and up will need to visit DMV to renew driver's license.

- Proper identification will be needed for the above services.

In addition to the above, seniors are welcome to attend a review of the Rules of the Road presented by the Department of Motor Vehicles beginning at 10 am and lasting about 1.5 hours. This will prepare you for taking the written test for your driver's license renewal if required.



#### For Sale: Ladies Pro Select Golf Clubs

Originally \$500, now \$250. Bag and pull cart free. Call Jean at 708-246-6635.

#### Dog Walking/Pet Sitting

Experienced and insured dog walker and pet sitter who has the love of animals and the outdoors. I have been a resident of Indian Head Park for over 13 years. References are available. Please contact Liz @ 708.927.2671.

*Smoke Signals* is published quarterly by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of on-going activities in the Village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship. Circulation is 2,000.

Editor is Trustee Rita Farrell Mayer. News for the next issue is due by October 3 and should be submitted electronically to: [rfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov](mailto:rfarrellmayer@indianheadpark-il.gov).

Full page ads - \$200.00, 1/2 page ad - \$125.00, 3 1/2 "x 3 1/2" size ads - \$75.00, Business Card size ads - \$45.00, Trading Post ads - \$20.00 (no commercial ads - the ad will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

#### VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525  
708-246-3080 /

[www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)

##### Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursdays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

##### Mayor:

Tom Hinshaw

##### Trustees:

Heidi Lopez

Glen R. Mann

Rita Farrell Mayer

Laurie Scheer

Chris Metz

Brenda O'Laughlin

Amy Jo Wittenberg

##### Village Clerk:

##### Administrator:

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